STATE OF ILLINOIS ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

Illinois Commerce Commission On Its Own Motion)		
Investigation Concerning Illinois Bell Telephone Company's compliance with Section 271 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996)))	Docket No. 01-0662	

AMERITECH ILLINOIS' OPPOSITION TO JOINT CLEC MOTION TO EXTEND DATE FOR FILING REPLY BRIEFS

Illinois Bell Telephone Company ("Ameritech Illinois" or the "Company"), by its attorneys, hereby files this Opposition to the Joint CLEC Motion to Extend the Date for the Filing of the Reply Briefs in this matter.

- 1. This docket is examining Ameritech Illinois' compliance with the requirements of Section 271, a prerequisite for Ameritech Illinois' entry into the interLATA business. The ability of Ameritech Illinois to get into the interLATA business has always been important, but it is increasingly vital both to Ameritech Illinois' ability to match "full service" competitive offers in the marketplace and to Illinois consumers who have observed increasing instability in the telecommunications marketplace.
 - 2. On October 24, 2001, the Commission initiated this proceeding.
- 3. On November 27, 2001, the Administrative Law Judge established a procedural schedule which set the dates for testimony, hearings and briefing. Under this schedule, reply briefs were due July 2, 2002.
- 4. On March 5, 2002, the Administrative Law Judge granted Staff's motion to amend the schedule. The Order moved back the dates for testimony and hearings and established July 26, 2002 as the new due date for reply briefs.

- 5. On June 6, 2002, the briefing schedule was amended so that initial briefs were due on July 19, 2002 and reply briefs were due on August 16, 2002.
- 6. Hearings were conducted between June 17, 2002 and June 21, 2002 and all cross examination was completed by June 21, 2002. There was an additional hearing date on July 1, 2002, but there were no live witnesses presented on July 1st the hearing was limited to the admission of pre-filed testimony and affidavits.
- 7. At some point during the hearing, the Administrative Law Judge granted a request by the CLECs to further extend the briefing schedule so that the initial briefs were due on July 24, 2002 and reply briefs were due on August 21, 2002. On July 16, 2002, the Administrative Law Judge issued a notice stating that the new due date for reply briefs was August 21, 2002.
- 8. Initial briefs were filed on July 24, 2002 a little more than 30 days after the conclusion of the cross examination in this hearing. Under the initial schedule, the parties were to have had six weeks after the completion of the hearings to file both initial briefs and reply briefs. Under the schedule as it has been revised from time to time, the parties had more than four weeks from the completion of cross examination to file initial briefs and will have an additional four weeks to file their reply briefs.
- 9. It is not the case that there is additional time available to build into the briefing schedule. The briefing of Phase I must be completed as quickly as possible because there is so much more to be done in this docket; e.g., the Administrative Law Judge must issue the proposed order, briefs on exception and reply briefs on exception will be filed, and the Commission must issue its Phase I Order. Should the Commission find any deficiencies in the application, Ameritech Illinois would, of course, need time to address those items.

WHEREFORE, for all of the above-stated reasons, Ameritech Illinois respectfully requests that the Joint CLEC Motion to Extend the Date for Filing of Reply Briefs in this matter be denied. Ameritech Illinois does not believe that an emergency status hearing is required to resolve this issue, but has no objection to such a hearing if the Administrative Law Judge believes that it would facilitate resolution of this matter.

One of Its Attorneys

Respectfully submitted,

ILLINOIS BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Mark R. Ortlieb, an attorney, certify that a copy of the foregoing AMERITECH

ILLINOIS' OPPOSITION TO JOINT CLEC MOTION TO EXTEND DATE FOR

FILING REPLY BRIEFS was served on the following parties by electronic transmission on August 12, 2002.

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